

June 2020

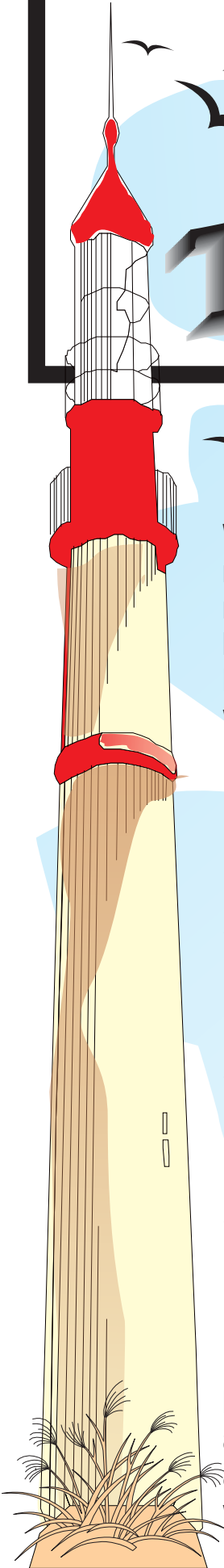
The Lighthouse

5 Quarantine Shout Outs

We may not have been able to meet together in person for worship, prayer meetings, Sunday school, Bible studies, circle meetings, choir, or fellowship meals; but there has been work going on at the church. Numerous work projects have been completed (or are close to being completed) around the church. Numerous people with a little extra time on their hands have been at the church working on projects that did not require large groups.

- 1 The soffit vents have all been repaired with new screening. The old screens had rotted and raccoons and other creatures were moving into our attic. Now all the holes are plugged! The only thing left to do is to put the molding on the vents on the east edge of the church.
- 2 The shrubs surrounding the church have been extensively trimmed. The big job was the shrubs on the west side of the back parking lot. Not only did the shrubs get a needed trim, but all the vines and leaves were cleared out.
- 3 The hall carpet in the education wing has been given a much needed deep cleaning. All the stains are practically gone.
- 4 By the time you receive this, the parking lot will have been re-stripped. If not, then it soon will be!
- 5 The fence around the backyard of the Father Ryan manse was power washed. It almost looks like a new fence. Also, all the superfluous cables and wires on the outside of the manse were removed. It looks much cleaner. The gutter downspouts were also repaired.

I am sure I am leaving something out that was repaired or upgraded. Thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to work on the church property. In addition to our deacons, there are too many others to mention by name and I would be sure to leave someone out.



One person I will single out is Jeff Harrison. Jeff is responsible for the beautifully filmed, edited, and produced streamed services. What a blessing to have someone with his expertise on staff! He spent hours each week putting together those services. Most of us have no idea what it takes to put something like that together. The quality of the production certainly made up for my lack of “on air talent”!

Finally, I want to thank you for your generosity. Throughout these nine weeks our giving has not suffered. On the contrary, it has been much greater than this time last year (and we were in church!). So, thanks for taking the time to mail in or drop off your contributions. The Lord loves a cheerful giver! (And so do the people who live off your contributions!)

I look forward to seeing many of you in person soon!

Tim



We have resumed Church Services at 10:55am and an Evening Prayer Service at 5:00pm. No other activities at this time are scheduled,

Happy Birthday
for June

Diane Bowden 4th
Clarence Ponsler 19th
Tim Horn 27th



Dates to Remember for June

June 21 Fathers Day

Hymn of the Month

SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE -text by Johann J. Schutz, 1675

This hymn is found on page 214 of the Trinity Psalter Hymnal and is sung to a very hearty tune, Kirchengesange, which we have sung for years here at 1st Presbyterian Church, Biloxi. It is harmonized by Heinrich Reimann and translated by Frances E. Cox, 1864.

“If My people...will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will ...forgive their sin...and will heal their land.” You may recognize that this verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14 has been posted many times on social media lately due to the pandemic Coronavirus which has led some to murmur of despair. But years ago, this verse led to a revival of faith, leading to the composing of this hymn. The hymn calls us to:

“Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all Creation,
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled;
To God, all praise and glory!”

It was written by Johann Schutz, a friend and attorney to Philip Spener. Philip had a holy zeal to change the church from formal and shallow to one of repentance and serious discipleship. A revival broke out in the church, people were converted, lives changed, and families transformed. This revival began small group meetings, home prayer and Bible study groups. This era became known as the “Pietistic Movement.” In his joy for what was happening, Schutz wrote this hymn. The third verse says:

“The Lord is never far away, But, thru all grief distressing,
An ever-present help and stay, Our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother’s tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band,
To God, all praise and glory!”

In this day of social distancing and precautions against the threat of contracting a contagious disease, it is good to remember that:

“What God’s almighty power hath made, His gracious mercy keeps:
By morning glow or evening shade, His watchful eye ne’er sleeps.
Within the kingdom of His might, Lo, all is just and all is right:
To God, all praise and glory.”

The story of Spener and Schutz reminds us we should never give up on revival. If you don’t see a revival starting around you, let it begin in our own heart, then let it overflow to others. Let his balm fill your soul.

Keep a song in your heart, Melba

Information taken from [Then Sings My Soul](#) by Robert J. Morgan